

Appl. No. 09/706,170

Response in Reply to Office Action dated May 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A document processing system comprising a terminal device and a document providing device,

said terminal device comprising:

categorizing means for categorizing ~~an~~ electronic documents, wherein each electronic document is categorized into one of a plurality of categories according to a characteristic of said each electronic document;

communication means for communicating with said document providing device;

specification information input means for specifying one of the electronic ~~document~~ documents categorized in one of said categories or specifying one of said categories; and

control means for controlling said communication means so as to transmit, to said document providing device, the electronic document specified by said specification information input means or characteristic information indicating the characteristic of ~~the~~ category specified by said specification information input means,

said document providing device comprising:

a database for storing a plurality of electronic documents;

retrieval means for retrieving ~~the~~ desired electronic document from the electronic documents stored in said database;

communication means for communicating with said terminal device; and

control means for controlling said communication means and said retrieval means such that when said communication means receives said characteristic information, said retrieval means retrieves the electronic document related to said characteristic information from the electronic documents stored in said database, and said communication means transmits information associated with the retrieved electronic document to said terminal device.

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Claim 2 (previously presented): A document processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said control means of said terminal device transmits the electronic document specified by said specification information input means or characteristic information indicating the characteristic of a category specified by said specification information input means together with an identifier of the specified electronic document or category to said document providing device via said communication means.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A document processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said control means of said document providing device transmits the electronic document extracted by retrieval, as said information associated with the retrieved electronic document, to said terminal device via said communication means.

Claim 4 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said control means of said document providing device transmits a list of electronic documents extracted by retrieval, as said information associated with the retrieved electronic document, to said terminal device via said communication means.

Claim 5 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 4, wherein said terminal device further comprises electronic document specifying means for, when said list is received via said communication means, inputting electronic document specifying information to specify a particular electronic document of those included in said list, and

said control means of said terminal device transmits the electronic document specifying information input via said electronic document specifying means to said document providing device via said communication means.

Claim 6 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 5, wherein said control means of said document providing device transmits an electronic document specified by said electronic document specifying information received from said terminal device to said terminal device via said communication means.

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Claim 7 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 4, wherein said control means of said document providing device produces said list such that electronic documents retrieved by said retrieval means from said database are all included in said list, and said control means transmits said list to said terminal device via said communication means.

Claim 8 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 4, wherein said control means of said document providing device produces said list such that electronic documents retrieved by said retrieval means from said database are partially included in said list, and said control means transmits said list to said terminal device via said communication means.

Claim 9 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 4, wherein said control means of said document providing device produces said list such that a full or partial set of electronic documents retrieved by said retrieval means from said database is sorted and the resultant sorted set of electronic documents is included in said list, and said control means transmits said list to said terminal device via said communication means.

Claim 10 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 2, wherein said categorizing means temporarily determines a category in which the electronic document received from said document providing device is to be categorized, in accordance with the characteristic of said electronic document,

if said category determined is the same as the category specified by said specification information input means or as the category to which the specified electronic document belongs, said categorizing means categorizes said electronic document received from said document providing device into said category, and

if said category determined is different from the category specified by said specification information input means or from the category to which the specified electronic document belongs, said categorizing means categorizes said electronic document received from said document providing device into a category in accordance with an instruction given by a user.

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Claim 11 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 1, wherein when said categorizing means categorizes the electronic document received from said document providing device into a category, said categorizing means updates category information.

Claim 12 (original): A document processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said document providing device further comprises accounting means for, when said document providing device transmits the electronic document to said terminal device, performing an accounting process associated with the fee to said terminal device.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A terminal device comprising:
categorizing means for categorizing ~~an electronic document into one of~~
categories electronic documents, wherein each electronic document is categorized into one of a
plurality of categories according to a characteristic of said each electronic document;
communication means for communicating with a document providing device;
specification information input means for specifying an one of the electronic document
documents categorized in one of said categories or specifying one of said categories; and
control means for controlling said communication means so as to transmit, to said
document providing device, an the electronic document specified by said specification
information input means or characteristic information indicating the characteristic of a the
category specified by said specification information input means.

Claim 14 (original): A terminal device according to Claim 13, wherein said control means transmits an electronic document specified by said specification information input means or characteristic information indicating the characteristic of a category specified by said specification information input means together with an identifier of the specified electronic document or category to said document providing device via said communication means.

Claim 15 (original): A terminal device according to Claim 13, further comprising electronic document specifying means for, when a list of electronic documents retrieved in accordance with said characteristic information is received from said document providing device

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via said communication means, inputting electronic document specifying information to specify a particular electronic document of those included in said list,

wherein said control means transmits the electronic document specifying information input via said electronic document specifying means to said document providing device via said communication means.

Claim 16 (original): A terminal device according to Claim 13, wherein said categorizing means temporarily determines a category in which the electronic document received from said document providing device is to be categorized, in accordance with the characteristic of said electronic document,

if said category determined is the same as the category specified by said specification information input means or as the category to which the specified electronic document belongs, said categorizing means categorizes said electronic document received from said document providing device into said category, and

if said category determined is different from the category specified by said specification information input means or from the category to which the specified electronic document belongs, said categorizing means categorizes said electronic document received from said document providing device into a category in accordance with an instruction given by a user.

Claim 17 (original): A terminal device according to Claim 13, wherein when said categorizing means categorizes the electronic document received from said document providing device into a category, said categorizing means updates category information.

Claims 18-99 (canceled)